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FOLK STORIES
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民間故事
第二集
海華文庫

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# 民間故事第二集

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# 序言

中華文化源遠流長，更蘊含豐沛人文思想與智慧結晶，傳統文化歷經歲月的薰陶、先賢智慧的累積，文化內涵更趨豐富多元，如何忠實記載博大精深的優良內涵，推展海外僑民教育，更攸關我優質文化札根與傳承，深具意義且任重道遠。

本會致力於海外華僑文教業務之推展，編印系列華語文教材，旨在增進僑胞對於中華文化的認識，提高華裔子弟之華語文程度，並能從歷史精髓中汲取先人智慧，跨越時空的鴻溝，習得待人處世的哲學，使中華文化歷久彌新，展現動人的光采。

僑務委員會

# Preface

The Chinese have a long history and inherit abundant humanistic thoughts and wisdom. As time progresses, our culture is becoming ever richer and more diverse. Whether Chinese culture can take root and be passed down to future generations depends on whether we are faithfully writing down the vast and profound contents of the culture and promoting the education of overseas Chinese.

The OCAC has endeavored to sponsor cultural and educational activities in overseas Chinese communities. We have compiled a series of Chinese language textbooks and put them in print. Theses materials enable overseas Chinese to understand Chinese culture, raise their language abilities. Despite of changes in time, they can still gain ancestors' wisdom from history, and learn the Chinese philosophy of getting along with people.

OCAC ,Republic of China(Taiwan)



# 編者的話

民間故事就是流行於民間的故事，也有人稱之為「傳說」。這種故事的特點之一，便是沒有固定的寫本；同一個故事的情節或主題，往往因時代、地域、民情、風俗的差異而有所不同。而且它們大部份是以口相傳的，這也是它們容易發生變化的主要原因之一。

在我國早期的史籍中，往往記有不少的傳說故事。到了六朝，才有文人開始專門從事傳說故事的采集或改寫的工作。此一傳統延續至今。

從古籍中搜羅傳說故事，編纂成書，最有成就的該算是明朝的王罃，他編了一部「群書類編故事」，內容非常豐富。海華文庫的民間故事、便是從這一類的書籍裡去取材，再用白話文來改寫成章。

民間故事藏有一個民族的夢想和願望。如果我們想多瞭解我們自己，我們就不要忘了去閱讀我們的民間故事。

趙　林



## EDITOR'S PREFACE

One of the characteristics of folk tales, ie., stories that are popular among the common people, sometimes termed "legends", is that there is no standard script. The plot and theme of a single story constantly changes with respect to differences in time, place, locale and peoples' customs. Moreover, folk tales were transmitted orally, which is one of the more important reasons why they change so easily.

The histories of early China always include many legends and stories. Not until the period of the Six Dynasties period were there literati who specialized in compiling and revising legends or folk tales. This tradition has continued to this day.

Of all those who compiled and anthologized stories and legends from ancient sources, the most successful was Wang Ying of the Ming Dynasty. He edited *Stories from Various Books,* the sources of which are extremely rich and varied. The folk tales in *The Overseas Chinese Library* are culled from books of this kind and are rewritten in modern Chinese.

Folk tales contain within them the dreams and wishes of a people. If we desire to understand ourselves a little better, we should not neglect to read them.

**L. CHAO**
**May, 1985, Taipei**

# 目錄
Contents

# 烽火亡國

*SIGNAL FIRES CAUSE THE LOSS OF A COUNTRY*

烽火 signal fire
珍貴 valuable, precious
千方百計 by hook or by crook, a thousand schemes
悶悶不樂 unhappy
信號 signal
諸侯 feudal lords
火焰 flame, blaze
救援 help or aid
燃 burn, light
開懷 relax, be at ease
發愣 stare blankly, be in a daze
愚弄 to be a fool
怒 angry, furious
召集 call up, summon

周幽王（西元前七八一——七七一年）攻打褒國時，得到一個美女，名叫褒姒。褒姒雖然長得漂亮，但卻從來不笑。幽王爲了想逗她一笑，給她最珍貴的珠寶，讓她吃最美味的食物，用盡千方百計，褒姒卻總是不笑。幽王貴爲一國之君，而不能贏得美人一笑，悶悶不樂。

周朝有一種烽火台，如果有敵人來進攻，便燃起烽火做爲信號，四方諸侯看到火焰，便知天子有難，立刻出兵救援。所以除非情況緊急，否則是不輕易點燃烽火的。可是幽王爲了討好褒姒，竟然把念頭轉向了這個不可兒戲的烽火台。他把烽火點燃。各路諸侯以爲京城發生危難，於是幾十萬兵馬，浩浩蕩蕩奔跑而來。

***When Emperor You of Chou (781 – 771 B.C.) attacked the kingdom of Pao, he won a beautiful woman named Pao Ssu. Although she was beautiful, Pao Ssu never smiled. In order to make her smile, the Emperor gave her precious pearls and jewels to wear and delicious things to eat. He tried a thousand things but still Pao Ssu wouldn't smile. The Emperor was the monarch of the country and yet he couldn't win a smile from the beautiful woman. It made him extremely unhappy that he could not do this.***

***The country of Chou had signal fire platforms; if enemies came to attack the fires were lit as signals, all the feudal lords would see the blaze and know their emperor was in trouble. They would then immediately send out their troops to help. The fire would not be lit unless the situation was critical. But in order to please Pao Ssu, the Emperor thought of a plan to use the signal fire platforms that were not meant to be played with. So the signal fires were lit. The feudal lords thought that the capital city was in grave danger, so thousands of soldiers, vast and mighty, soon came running.***





褒姒看到各路兵馬忙得團團轉，又看到將士們緊張兮兮的樣子，不覺大笑了起來。幽王開心極了，也大笑不已，竟然忘了身旁一些發愣的諸侯還站在那兒呢。過了一會兒，他才說：「沒事了，大家回去吧！」

爲了討褒姒的歡喜，幽王已忘了烽火的重要性，居然一連點了數次，諸侯們知道被愚弄了，氣得不得了。

後來幽王因寵褒姒，便廢掉了皇后申氏，申氏的父親申侯大怒，於是便聯合一個名叫犬戎的外族攻打幽王。幽王在情勢緊急之下，命令士兵點燃烽火，召集諸侯前來解救。那裏想到，因爲自己的糊塗，玩弄烽火，直到被殺在驪山之下時，一個諸侯也沒有來！

*When Pao Ssu saw all the troops rushing crazily and saw the officers and men so nervous, she unconsciously let out a great laugh. Emperor You was extremely happy. He smiled and smiled and completely forgot about the lords standing there staring blankly. After a while the Emperor said, "It's nothing. Everyone go home."*

*In order to win Pao Ssu's favor, Emperor You completely forgot the importance of the signal fires and went so far as to light them several times. The lords all knew they had been made fools of and were extremely furious.*

*Later, Emperor You dismissed his empress, Lady Shen, in favor of his concubine Pao Ssu. Lady Shen's father was greatly angered and united with a foreign tribe called the Ch'üan Jung to attack Emperor You. When Emperor You's situation got tense, he ordered the signal fires to be lit to summon the feudal lords to come to his aid. The Emperor never imagined that because of his own foolishness and games with the signal fires, not even one lord would come to save him, even as he was being killed at the foot of Mt. Li.*

# 潁考叔孝感莊公

## *YING KAO-SHU'S FILIAL PIETY MOVES DUKE CHUANG*





周朝時，鄭武公（西元前七七〇—七四四年）的夫人武姜，生了莊公及共叔段。生莊公時，因爲難產，差點喪生，以後便很討厭他，想盡辦法向武公請求立共叔段爲太子，但武公都不肯答應。

莊公做了國君之後，封京城給共叔段。共叔段很不甘心，便吞併附近的土地，擴張自己的勢力，訓練軍隊，整補軍備，和母親裏應外合，準備攻打鄭國。沒想到卻被莊公派大軍打敗，逃到鄰國去了。

因爲這件事，莊公很不諒解母親，便把她幽禁在城穎的地方，並發誓說：「不到黃泉，再也不和她相見。」可是事後又後悔了，但已無法收回自己的話。這時城穎的官吏名叫穎考叔，知道

*In the Chou Dynasty, Wu-chiang, the wife of Duke Wu of Cheng (770−744 B.C.), gave birth to (the future) Duke Chuang and Kung Shu--tuan. Because she had difficulty giving birth to Chuang and nearly lost her life, she took an intense dislike to him. She thought of every way possible to plead with Duke Wu to set up Kung Shu-tuan as the heir apparent, but Duke Wu did not listen to her.*

*After Chuang became Duke, he enfeoffed Kung Shu-tuan with the city Ching. Kung Shu-tuan was very unhappy with this so he took the nearby territory and expanded his own power. He trained an army, provided them with weapons and conspired with his mother to prepare an attack on the State of Cheng. He did not expect that instead he would be defeated by Duke Chuang's large army. He then fled to a neighboring state.*

*Because of this, Duke Chuang could not forgive his mother. He imprisoned her in Ch'eng-yin and swore, "I will not look at you again except in Yellow Springs (hell)." After that he regretted saying it, but there was no way he could take back his words. At this time an official in Ch'eng-yin by the name of Ying Kao-*



難產 difficult labor at birth
喪生 lose one's life
討厭 to dislike intensely
太子 crown prince, heir to throne
甘心 willingly, readily
吞併 to annex
擴張 extend, stretch, expand
影響 influence

了這件事，便藉獻貢的事，去見莊公。莊公賜給他許多精美的食物，他把肉放在一邊不吃。莊公問他，他回答說：「我的母親，嘗過了我所得到的許多食物，卻還沒有嘗過國君所賜的肉羹，我想請您准許我帶回去給她嘗一嘗。」莊公聽了，十分感慨的說：「你有母親可以孝順。」便把詳細的情形告訴他。

穎考叔回答說：「您何不挖地道，挖到有泉水的地方，在地道中相見。這樣，誰又能說您不對呢？」

莊公聽從了他的話，於是母子和好如初。

當時的人知道了這件事，便讚美說：「穎考叔真是一個大孝的人啊！不但孝順他的母親，而且影響了莊公，使莊公也能盡孝。」

整補 to provide for, arrange
裡應外合 the joining of forces within and without
諒解 to forgive
幽禁 to confine, imprison
黃泉 the Yellow Springs, the Chinese Hades
後悔 to regret
詳細 in detail

***shu, upon hearing of this matter, went to see Duke Chuang, on the pretext of making an offering. The Duke gave him many wonderful things to eat, but he put all the meat to one side and did not eat it. When the Duke asked him why, he said, "My mother has tasted many things which I have gotten, but she has never yet tasted meat-soup given to me by a ruler. I would like to ask your permission to bring this back with me to give her a taste of it."***

***When Duke Chuang heard this, he said emotionally, "You have a mother to whom you can be filial, but because of an oath I took, I cannot see my mother." Then he told him in detail what had happened.***

***Ying Kao-shu replied, "Why don't you dig a tunnel and meet her where you find spring-water? This way, no one could say you broke your oath."***

***Duke Chuang followed his advice, and mother and son became as close as they were before.***

***When the people at the time heard about this they praised Ying Kao-shu, "Ying Kao-shu really is a filial man. He not only is filial to his mother, but also influenced Duke Chuang so that he also became filial."***

# 小孩子論日

*TWO CHILDREN DISCUSS THE SUN*





有一天，孔子（西元前五五一——四七九年）在外面散步，看到兩個小孩子在爭吵，便上前為他們調解，並詢問爭吵的原因。

一個孩子急急的說：「我認為早晨的太陽離我們比較近，而中午較遠；他卻認為中午近而早晨遠。我們就為了這問題而爭執不下，差點兒打了起來。」

孔子聽了，很有興趣的說：「我倒要聽聽你們的意見。」

剛才那個孩子又搶著說：「早晨太陽剛出來的時候，像車輪那麼大，到了中午卻小如菜盤，這是不是因為早晨的太陽離我們比較近，

*One day, Confucius (551–479 B.C.) was outside strolling around when he saw two children quarreling. He went over to mediate for them and ask what they were quarreling about.*

*One child quickly said, "I think the sun is closer to us in the morning and further away at noon; on the other hand, he thinks the sun is closer at noon and further away in the morning. We're quarreling about this and almost started hitting each other."*

*Confucius listened to this and with much interest said, "I'd like to hear your reasons."*

*The child who had spoken up earlier said, "In the morning when the sun has just come out, it's as big as the wheel of a cart; at noon it's as small as a plate. Isn't this because in the morning the sun closer to us so it looks relatively big, but at noon the sun is further from us so it appears smaller?"*

*The other child, unwilling to give in, said, "Huh! That's not it at all. In the morning when the sun has just come out, the weather is*





看起來比較大，而中午遠，看起來比較小的緣故嗎？」

另一個不服氣的說：「哼！才不是呢！你看早晨太陽剛出來時，天氣十分涼爽；但到了中午，曬著太陽，感覺就熱多了。這不是中午離太陽較近而覺得熱，早晨離太陽較遠所以覺得涼的緣故嗎？」

孔子聽完他們的敘述，很佩服他們獨特的見解，一時之間，也不知如何來決定誰是誰非了。

兩個孩子看了哈哈大笑說：「誰說您是一位博學多聞的人呢？」說完，手拉著手蹦蹦跳跳的走了。

*pleasantly cool, but in the noon time, when one stands under the sun, he will surely feel very hot. So doesn't this mean that the sun is closer to us at noon thus we feel hot, but it is further from us in the morning so we feel cool?"*

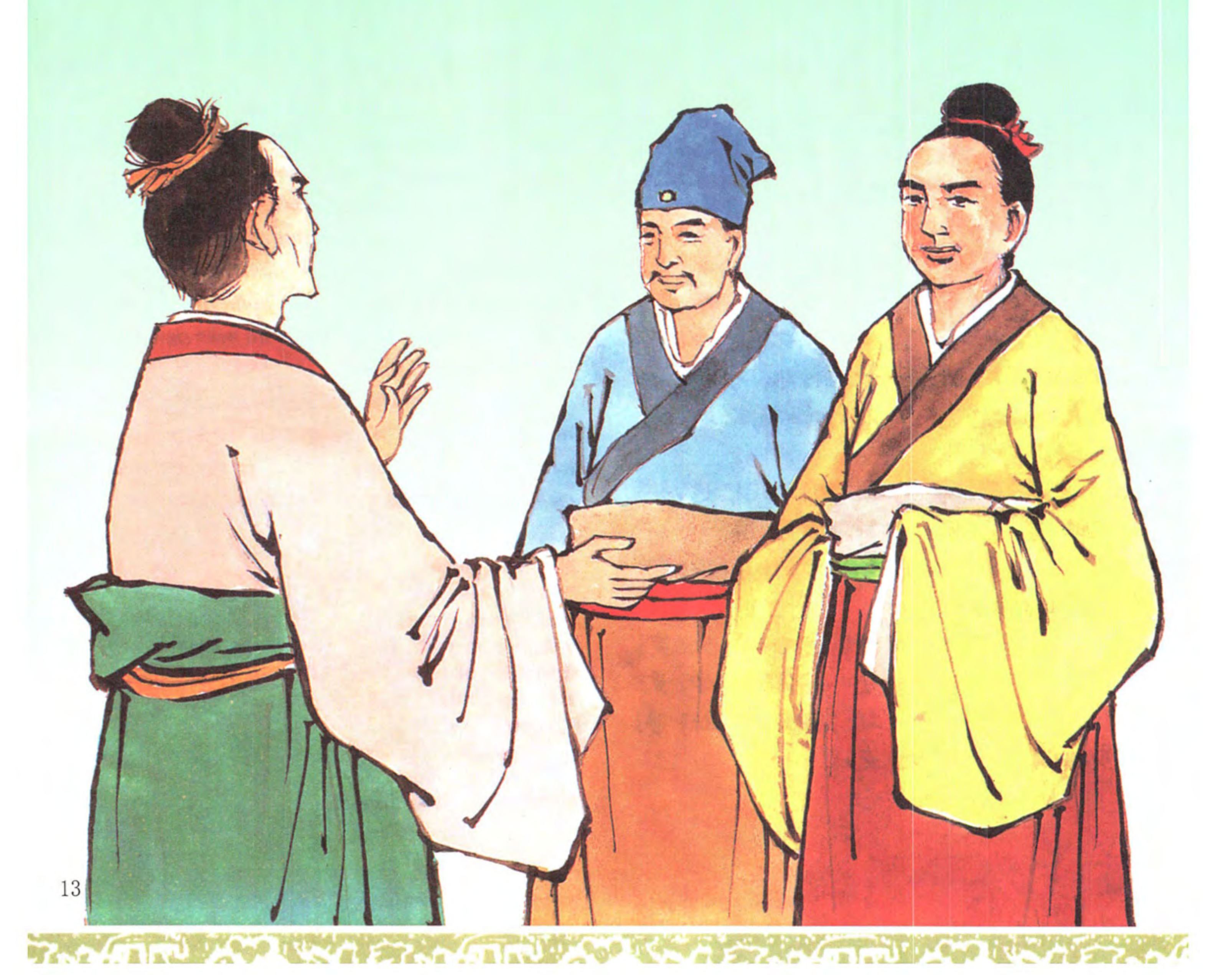
*Confucius listened to their stories and really admired their unique opinions, yet he didn't know how to decide who was right and who was wrong.*

*When the two children saw this they laughed loudly and said, "Who says you are a man of great learning?" Upon saying this, they grabbed each other's hand and went skipping away.*

論 debate, discuss
調解 mediate, reconcile
原因 reason, cause
爭執 dispute with, to contend, to be at odds
服氣 yield or submit willingly
涼爽 pleasantly cool
曬 to dry in the sun
獨特 unique , distinctive
博學 well-learned
蹦蹦跳跳 skipping, tripping

# 杞人憂天

**THE MAN FROM CH'I WHO WORRIED ABOUT THE SKY**





從前在杞國有一個很膽小的人，他常會想一些很奇怪的令人覺得莫名其妙的問題來煩惱自己。

有一天，他望著天空，突然憂愁的自言自語：「假如有一天天塌下來，那怎麼辦呢？我們豈不是無路可逃，活活被壓死嗎？」

從此，他每天都爲這個問題而煩惱不已，越想越覺得可怕，結果連飯也吃不下，覺也睡不著，精神恍惚，面色憔悴。朋友見了，都爲他擔心，勸他說：「老兄啊！你何必爲這事而煩惱呢？

*Once upon a time there was a man in the State of Ch'i who was very cowardly. He always thought of strange and bizarre problems to worry about.*

*One day he was looking at the sky and suddenly said to himself in a worried tone, "If some day the sky were to fall down, what would we do? With no place to run, wouldn't we all be crushed to death?"*

*From that moment on, he endlessly worried about this question. The more he thought, the more he felt as though he was in danger. In the end he could not even eat or sleep. He became absent-minded and his face looked haggard. When his friends saw him they were all concerned about him and tried to persuade him saying, "Brother, why must you be so worried*





莫名其妙 inconceivable
自言自語 talk to one's self
塌 to fall, collapse
危險 danger
恍惚 absent-minded
憔悴 a worn look, haggard
勸 to advise
積聚 accumulate, amass, heap together
顫抖 to tremble, shake
頂住 to support, brace, strengthen with a support
徒勞無功 to labor in vain
喃喃自語 to mumble to one's self

天，只是由大氣所積聚起來的，看得見，摸不著，怎麼會塌下來呢？自古以來，就沒發生過這種事啊！」

他聽了，不但不放心，反而更緊張了，顫抖的說：「天果真是由大氣所積聚起來的，沒有蓋子，那麼如果太陽、月亮、星星掉了下來，沒東西頂住，我們豈不是也要被壓死嗎？」

大家看了，知道即使再費唇舌，也是徒勞無功，便搖搖頭嘆口氣走了，只留他一個人在那兒喃喃自語：「怎麼辦？怎麼辦？」

*about this? The sky is just a lot of air heaped together. You can't see it and you can't touch it. So how can it fall down? Since ancient times, nothing like that has ever happened."*

*When he heard this, not only did he not relax but he became even more nervous. He said trembling, "If the sky is air heaped together, then we have no cover. If the sun, moon, and stars fall down there's nothing up there for support. Wouldn't we all be still crushed to death?"*

*After every one heard this, they knew that even if they talked to him more their efforts would be wasted. Shaking their heads and sighing, they went back home. He was left alone mumbling to himself. "What shall we do? What shall we do?"*



# 每月偷一隻雞

## *STEAL A CHICKEN EVERY MONTH*



宋國有個大官，名叫戴盈之。有一天，戴盈之告訴了孟子（西元前三七二—二八九年）：「您常常告誡我們，努力治理國家，好好愛護百姓，還舉了古代聖人們治理國家的事蹟，希望我們能效法。可是以國家目前的情況看來，實在無法做到祇收十分之一的賦稅，更不用說關卡不收稅呢！」戴盈之接著用商量的口氣問孟子：「這樣好嗎？今年稍微減輕一些賦稅，明年再像您所說，祇收十分之一的稅，至於關卡不收稅，祇好以後看著辦了。」孟子聽了，很不高興，因爲對方是大官，不好意思讓他下不了台，便說了一個故事給戴盈之聽：「有

*In the State of Sung there was an important official named Tai Ying-chih. One day Tai Ying-chih told Mencius (372–289 B.C.), "You often tell us to work hard in governing the country and to take good care of the people. You point to the deeds of the ancient sages and hope that we will be able to follow their examples. But looking at the present situation in our country, there is just no way to collect a mere ten percent land tax, not to mention not collecting a toll station tax!" Sounding as if he were negotiating, he asked Mencius, "How about this? This year we will reduce the land tax slightly. Next year will then be as you have suggested, we will only collect a ten percent land tax. But regarding collecting tax at toll stations, we will deal with that depending upon the situation at the time."*

*After Mencius heard this he was very unhappy. Since his counterpart was an important official he was kind enough not to put the official on the spot. So instead he told Tai Ying-chih a story. "There was once a thief," he said, "who would steal a chicken from his neighbors every evening and take it to the streets*







一個小偷，每天晚上偷抓鄰人一隻雞，拿到街上販賣，換取日常生活用品。他的好朋友勸告他說：『這不是好行為，不應該再這樣做。』小偷覺得很有道理，但又沒把握馬上改掉壞習慣，就對朋友說：『要我一個月衹偷一隻雞，然後慢慢減少，最後才完全不偷雞，這樣好嗎？』小偷的朋友聽了，知道他惡習難改，不禁嘆了口氣說：『既然明白自己做得不對，就不該再做；怎麼可以等到將來才改正？』」

戴盈之聽了，面紅耳赤，不好意思和孟子再說下去，假裝頭痛，向孟子說再見了。

*to peddle and exchange for goods he used in his everyday life. His good friend advised him saying, 'This is not a good behavior. You shouldn't do it again.' "*

*"The thief thought there was a lot of truth in what his friend had said," continued Mencius, "but he couldn't be certain that he could immediately give up his bad habit. He said to his friend, If you want me to stop stealing chickens all at once, there's really just no way. Instead, can I gradually improve and just steal one chicken a month for now? After a while I could steal less and less, until one day I would finally not steal any chickens at all. What about this method?' When the thief's friend heard this, he realized that the thief's evil ways would be hard to change. He couldn't help but sigh and tell the thief, 'Since you understand that you are doing wrong, you shouldn't do it again at all. How can you wait until later and only then correct your behavior?' "*

*After Tai Ying-chih heard this, his whole face turned red. He was too embarrassed to speak with Mencius any more. He pretended to have a headache and bid farewell to Mencius.*

告誡 warn, remind
治理 to govern
事蹟 deeds
效法 follow the example
賦稅 land tax
關卡 customs or toll
稍微 slightly
下台 step down
不禁 can't stop from
改正 to correct




# 土地廟的老鼠
# 酒店的惡狗

***THE MOUSE AT THE TEMPLE OF THE EARTH GOD AND THE FEROCIOUS DOG AT THE LIQUOR STORE***



齊景公（西元前五四七—四九〇年）問晏子：「治理國家時，最怕那些事物？」晏子回答齊景公說：「最怕土地廟的老鼠和酒店的惡狗。」景公不明白。

晏子於是解釋說：「土地廟是用木板搭好了，再塗上泥土。老鼠來了就打洞，住在裡面，吃廟中供品。如果要撲滅老鼠，用大火燻，怕燒壞了木板；用水往洞裡灌，又怕沖壞了泥土。這些老鼠無法除去，是因爲它伏著土地廟的保護。而國家裡，也有像土地廟裡老鼠一樣的壞人，對內欺騙君主，對外作威作福，若不殺他，他在廟中作亂；若要殺他，作君王的又庇護著他。殺不是，不殺也不是。」

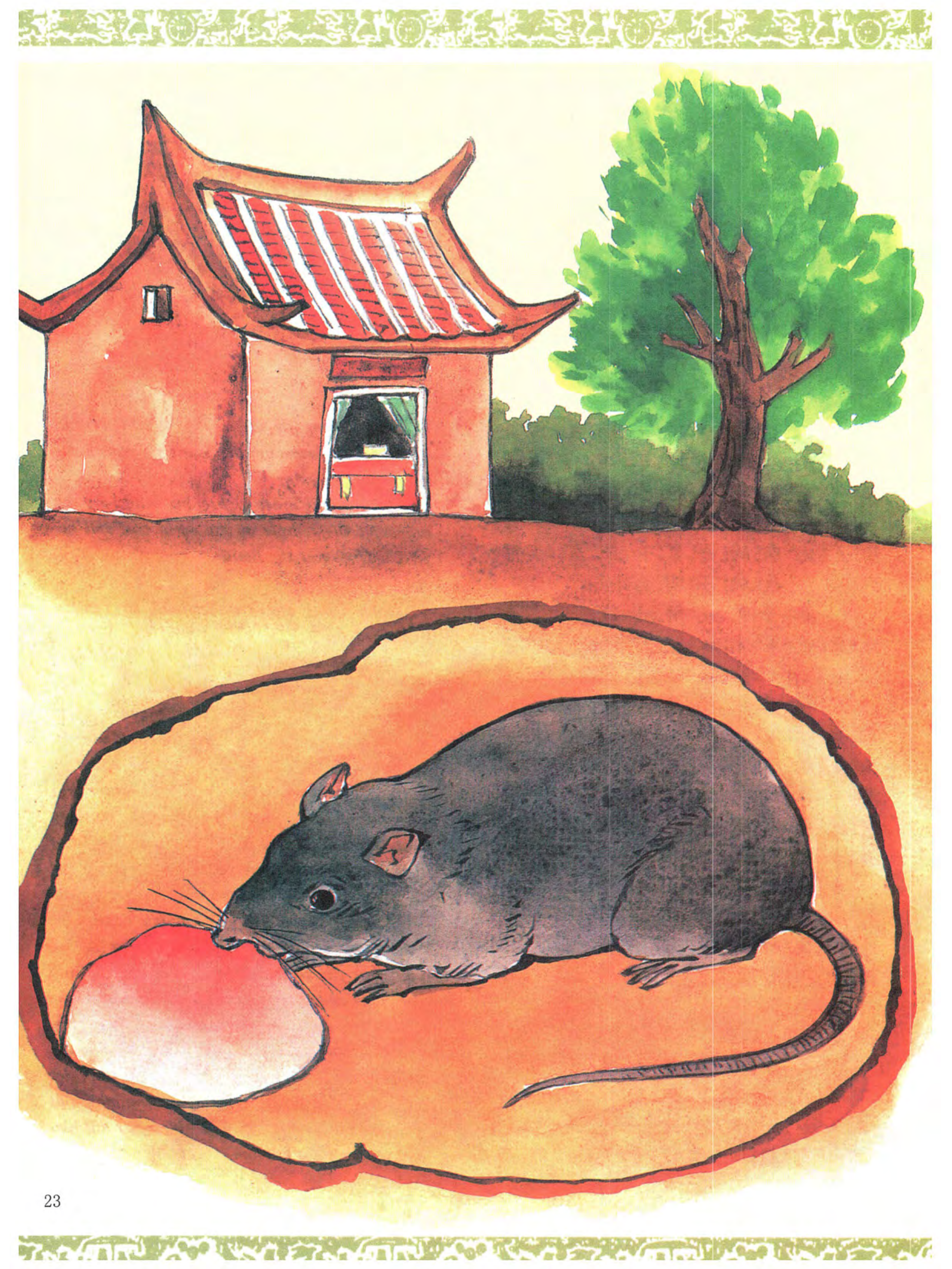
晏子停了停，又繼續說：「宋國有家酒店，出產的酒又好，又清潔。可是賣到酒都變酸，還沒賣完。酒店

*Duke Ching of Ch'i (547−490B.C.) asked Yen-tzu, "In governing the country, what things are most frightening?"*

*"I think the most frightening things are the mouse at the temple of the earth god and the ferocious dog at the liquor store, "replied Yen-tzu.*

*Duke Ching didn't understand, so Yen-tzu explained saying, "The temple of the earth god was built of wooden boards overlaid with mud. The mouse came and dug a hole into it and lived there, eating the offerings to the god. If we want to exterminate the mouse we could use fire to smoke it out. But we would be afraid of burning the boards. We could pour water into the hole, but we would be afraid of flushing away the soil. There is no way of getting rid of this mouse, because he relies on the temple of the earth god for protection."*

*"As for the country," Yen-tzu continued, "there are scoundrels who are similar to the mouse at the temple of the earth god. Within the court they swindle the monarch; outside the court they are bossy and imprudent. Supposing we don't kill them, they would create chaos in the court. If we wanted to kill them the ruler would protect them. This is like the mouse at the temple of the earth god. We can't kill him and we can't not kill him."*



的老闆自己都不清楚什麼緣故。問了熟人，才知道自己店中養了一隻惡狗，看見上門來的客人就咬，嚇得沒有人敢上門。」晏子又說：「國家中，也有像酒店中惡狗一樣的大臣，跟隨在大王左右。見到賢明的人，不但不推舉，反而故意陷害，使得這些賢明的人不能替國家作事。」

晏子這時誠懇的對齊景公說：「朝中的大臣，如果個個都像土地廟的老鼠或酒店的惡狗，國家能治理得好嗎？所以，治理國家，就怕土地廟的老鼠和酒店的惡狗啊！」

木板 planks, boards
搭 to build
塗 to spread
供品 offerings to Buddha or God
燻 to smoke
灌 to water, pour
沖 flush ,rinse
仗 to rely upon
作威作福 to throw one's weight around freely
庇護 to give protection to
賢明 capable and virtuous
陷害 frame someone up or slander
熟人 acquaintance

*Yen-tzu paused, then continued saying, "There is a liquor store in the State of Sung. The liquor brewed there was good and clean. But it sold so slowly that by the time the liquor had soured it had still not been all sold. The owner of the liquor shop did not know the reason for this. Not until he asked an old acquaintance did he know that a ferocious dog was being raised in his liquor store. As soon as it saw customers come in the door it bit and scared them so that no one dared to come to the store."*

*"Within the country there are some officials who are similar to the ferocious dog in the wine shop," continued Yen-tzu. "When they see capable men of virtue, they not only don't elect them to office but they even slander them. They make it impossible for these talented men to do anything for the country."*

*Yen-tzu said to Duke Ching in all sincerity, "If each and every official in the court is like the mouse at the temple of the earth god or the ferocious dog at the liquor store, can the ruler of the country avoid being cheated? Can the country be governed well? Thus, in governing the country, there is fear of the mouse at the temple of the earth god and the ferocious dog at the liquor store."*

# 不死藥

## *IMMORTALITY MEDICINE*





楚王當了國君幾年以後，漸漸年老，怕自己終究會死去。便昭告全國，重金懸賞不死之藥。

這個告示發佈不久以後，就有人帶著不死藥，來晉見楚王。

獻藥的人站在宮門外，等著楚王傳見。宮門旁邊擔任警衛的弓箭手，不相信有吃了長生不死的藥，很懷疑的問：「哼！眞的可以長生不死嗎？」獻藥的人聽了，很不高興的說：「當然，騙你幹什麼？」這個弓箭手聽了，馬上把藥搶過來，吞到肚子裏去了。因爲弓箭手的

*After the King of Ch'u had been the monarch for several years, he gradually grew older and became afraid of his eventual death. So, he announced to the whole country that he was ready to offer a large reward to obtain immortality medicine.*

*Not long after the announcement was made to the public, a man with immortality medicine came to have an audience with the king. The man who wanted to present the medicine to the king was standing outside the gate of the palace, waiting for the king to receive him. Standing guard by the gate was an archer. He did not believe that there could be such a medicine that if eaten, could prolong life and bring immortality. He very suspiciously asked the man with the medicine. "Is it true that you can become immortal after you eat this medicine?"*

*The man who had brought the medicine became very unhappy when he heard this and*





藥 medicine
召告 announce
懸賞 offer a reward
告示 notice, edict
晋見 to have an audience with
獻 to present, offer
弓箭手 archers
搶 to snatch, grab away
過錯 mistake

動作太快，獻藥的人來不及阻止，祇好拉著弓箭手去見楚王。

楚王知道不死藥被吃掉以後，非常生氣，命令左右侍衛把弓箭手抓起來，拖出去砍了。

弓箭手並不害怕，不慌不忙的說：「等一下，大王請聽我說。獻藥的人既然說吃了不死藥可以不死，大王現在把我殺了，這還能叫不死藥嗎？」

楚王聽完了箭手的話，覺得他說得很有道理，就把他放了。

*replied, "Of course! Why would I deceive you?" When the archer heard this, he immediately snatched the medicine and gulped it down. Because the archer moved so quickly the man who had brought the medicine had no time to stop him. He could then only drag the archer in with him to see the king.*

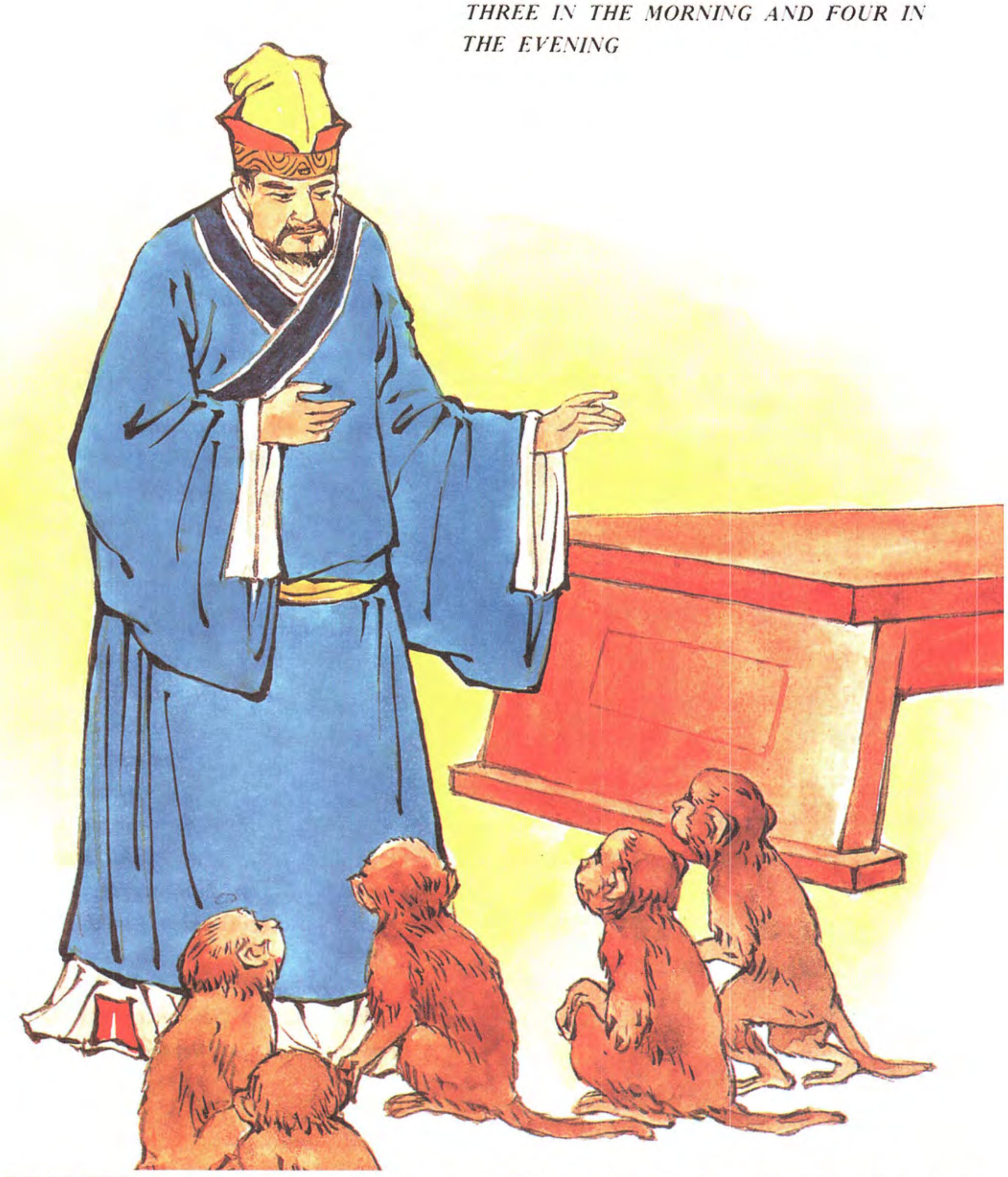
*After the king realized that the immortality medicine had been eaten by the archer, he was extremely angry. He ordered his guards to seize the archer and drag him out to be beheaded.*

*The archer was not afraid and said calmly, "Wait a minute. Oh, your highness, please hear what I have to say. This man says that his medicine gives immortality, but if the king orders me killed how can this be immortality medicine?"*

*After the king finished listening to the archer, he felt that what the archer had said was very true and he released him.*

# 朝三暮四

*THREE IN THE MORNING AND FOUR IN THE EVENING*





宋國有一個老人，很喜歡小動物，尤其最喜歡猴子。家裏養了很多猴子；鄰居因爲他喜歡猴子，就給他取了一個綽號，叫「猴公」。

猴公養的猴子，聰明可愛，能了解猴公的心意；猴公常跟猴子一起，也很清楚猴子們的習慣，連牠們高不高興都知道。

可是猴子越養越多，每天就要花很多錢給猴子買食物。過了不久，雖然猴公一家人省吃儉用，仍然沒有足夠的錢給猴子買食物。猴公沒法子，只得決定減少猴子們每天的食物。

可是猴子們有意見，牠

*In the State of Sung there was an old man who liked small animals very much. He especially liked monkeys and raised a great many in his house. Because he liked them so much, his neighbors nicknamed him Grandad Monkey.*

*The monkeys that Grandad Monkey raised were loveable and intelligent, and they could understand their master's feelings. The Grandad often spent time with the monkeys and he was very familiar with their habits as well. He even knew when they were happy or sad.*

*However, the longer the Grandad raised monkeys the more monkeys he had. Every day he had to spend a lot of money to buy food for the monkeys to eat. After a while, even though everyone in the Grandad family economized and lived frugally, there was still not enough money to buy food for the monkeys. Grandad Monkey could do nothing but decide to reduce the monkey's daily ration of food.*

*The monkeys, however, had been spoiled and had their own ideas. If their food was going*





們給猴公寵慣了。要減少猴子的食物，可得好言好語跟牠們商量，否則就會吵個不停。

猴公跟猴子們說：「現在家裏越來越窮，沒辦法再像從前吃那麼多東西了。從今天開始，每天早上吃三個水果，晚上吃四個水果，可以嗎？」猴子聽了大不高興，咧開嘴巴，叫鬧個不停。猴公說：「別吵了，既然你們不滿意，那麼改成早上四個水果，晚上三個水果，總可以了吧？」猴子們聽說改了原來的辦法，個個都很高興，趴到地上去跟猴公叩頭敬禮。

*to be reduced, it must be politely discussed with them or they would chatter incessantly in protest.*

*The Grandad said to them, "Our family is becoming poorer and poorer. There is no way we can eat as much as we did before. From now on, every morning you will get three pieces of fruit, and every evening you will get four pieces of fruit. How about that?"*

*The monkeys were very unhappy when they heard this. They opened their mouths and sneered at him, and they yelped and hollered incessantly. The Grandad said, "Be quiet! Since you're not satisfied with that, how about four pieces of fruit every morning and three pieces of fruit every evening?"*

*After the monkeys had heard that the Grandad had changed his original plan, each and every one of them was very happy. They all crawled down on the floor to kowtow respectfully to Grandad Monkey.*

綽號 nickname
心意 feelings
省吃儉用 live frugally
寵慣 spoiled
好言好語 mild, tender, words
咧開嘴巴 open mouth
敬禮 bow

# 和氏璧

*THE HO PI*



玉，是人人喜歡的寶貝；但要找到真正的好玉，可不容易。玉藏在石頭裏面，從外面看起來，一塊含有玉的「璞」和一塊普通石頭沒有什麼分別。所以要得到一塊玉，首先要能辨認「璞」；還要有技術，能把玉從石頭裏「琢」出來。

楚國的卞和，就是一個能識璞的人；但是他却沒有琢玉的本領。有一次，他在山中發現一塊非常珍貴的璞，他想，這塊寶貝，就送給我最敬愛的國王吧。楚厲王收到了璞，就給宮裏的玉匠看，可是玉匠不識貨，說這只不過是普通的石頭罷了。厲王一氣之下，竟砍掉了卞和的左脚。

過了幾年，厲王死了，他的兒子楚武王（西元前七四〇—六九〇年）接位。卞和還是要把這塊珍貴的璞送

*Jade is a treasure that everyone likes. But if you want to find good jade, it is not an easy thing at all. This is because jade is hidden inside rocks and from the outside a stone containing jade looks no different than an ordinary stone. If you want to obtain the jade you must first be able to distinguish the jade stone itself. You must also have the proper skills to chisel the jade out of the rock surrounding it.*

*In the state of Ch'u there lived a man named Pien Ho. He could recognize jade stones, but he was not skilled in chiseling the jade. One time in the mountains, he found an extremely valuable jade stone. He thought to himself, "I'll give this precious jewel as a gift to our beloved and respected king."*

*After King Li of Ch'u received the jade stone, he had the palace jadesmith examine it. The jadesmith couldn't see the value of the stone and said that it was no more than an ordinary rock. King Li became very angry and cut off Pien Ho's left foot.*

*After several years, King Li died and his son Wu became King of Ch'u (740–690 B.C.). Pien Ho still wanted to present this valuable jade stone to his honored king. But he did not expect that King Wu would also take him for a crook and cut off his right foot.*



給尊貴的國王。沒想到武王也認爲卞和是個騙子，砍掉他的右腳。

後來，武王也死了，由他兒子文王當國王。卞和想再獻璞，卻已經沒有勇氣了。他抱著璞，痛心的在他當年發現璞的山下，哭了三天三夜，眼睛都哭出血來了。有人把這件事報告文王。文王於是找卞和來問個清楚。卞和傷心的說：「我不是傷心兩隻腳被砍了，只是傷心寶玉被當成石頭，誠心誠意的人被當成騙子！」文王命令玉匠小心的去琢開那塊璞。不得了，琢出來的竟然是大家都沒見過的，一塊又大又美的玉。文王想，世界上眞假不分的事有多少啊！難得卞和能爲眞誠堅持到底。於是他決定把卞和這塊珍貴的寶玉取名爲「和氏璧」。

*Later, King Wu also died and his son Wen became king (689–677 B.C.). Pien Ho still wanted to present the jade stone to the king but he was no longer brave. Holding the jade, he sat at the foot of the mountain where he had discovered it. Deeply grieved, he cried for three days and three nights until blood flowed from his eyes.*

*Someone reported this event to King Wen. The King then sent for Pien Ho and asked him to explain. Pien Ho said sadly, "I'm not broken-hearted because my two feet have been cut off. I am heartbroken because a precious jade has been taken for an ordinary rock, and a sincere person for a crook." King Wen then ordered his jadesmith to carefully chisel open the rock. Sure enough, the jade that was chiseled out was such that none had ever seen before. It was a large and beautiful piece. King Wen thought to himself, "How many things are there in the world that we can't distinguish the real from the false? Pien Ho's sincerity persisted right up until the end. This is very rare." Thus, he decided to name the valuable jade stone the "Ho Pi", in honor of Pien Ho.*

璧 a round flat peice of jade with a circular hole in it,
辨認 to distinguish
琢 to chisel
本領 skill
玉匠 jade craftsman
尊貴 honored
獻 offer, present to
痛心 heart-broken
誠意 sincere
眞誠 sincerity

# 有兩個老婆的齊國人

## *THE MAN FROM CH'I WHO HAD TWO WIVES*





齊國有個人，他有兩個老婆，三個人住在一塊兒，可是他沒有職業。

雖然這個齊國人沒有職業，卻常常往外跑，而且每次回家，總是喝得醉醺醺，吃得很飽的樣子。他的大老婆一問起是和誰喝酒，他便說是和城裡有錢、有地位的人在一起。然而，從來沒有什麼人來拜訪過，他的大老婆開始懷疑丈夫的話。

有一天，大老婆忍不住了，就跟小老婆商量，決定偷偷的跟踪丈夫，探個究竟。丈夫出門後，她們兩人便偷偷跟著。經過了大街小巷，一直來到城門外，沒有看到有人和她們的丈夫打招呼，反倒某些人的臉上，有瞧不起他們丈夫的神情。這時

*There was once a man in the State of Ch'i who had two wives. The three of them lived together, but he had no job.*

*Even though this man from Ch'i didn't have a job, he often went out. Every time he came home he would be very drunk and would be sated with food. Everytime his first wife asked him with whom he drank, he would reply that he drank with the wealthy, high-class people from the city. However, no one had ever come to visit him, so his first wife began to doubt what he said.*

*One day, the first wife could not hold it in any longer and went to discuss this with the second wife. They decided to follow their husband in secret, and find out the truth. From the moment their husband went out the door, they stealthily followed him. They went along main roads and small lanes until they were outside of the city gate. Not even one of the people there greeted their husband. Instead, some of them looked at their husband with an air of contempt. At this time, they saw something that completely mortified them. Their husband was begging for food and liquor*



，看到了一件令她們羞愧的事情，丈夫居然向在墳地祭祖的人討酒討肉吃；一家不夠，又到另外一家要。兩個老婆看了，又生氣，又難過的跑回家。

回到家裡，大老婆對小老婆說：「丈夫是我們終身的寄託，我們的丈夫卻這麼沒出息、這麼不長進，將來還會有什麼希望？」說著說著，大老婆掉下淚來，小老婆也跟著哭，兩個人一面哭泣，一面咒罵著丈夫。

正當這時，丈夫從外頭回來了，並不曉得老婆們的跟踪，還得意洋洋的說：「今天又和貴人們交際應酬，他們是這麼的熱情，推都推不開！」

*from the people offering sacrifices to their ancestors in the cemetery. One family was not enough and he went to another family. The two wives watched, both angry and sad. They ran home.*

*Once they returned home, the first wife said to the second wife, "A husband is a life-long commitment. Yet our husband is so unpromising, and such a good-for-nothing, Is there any hope for the future?" The first wife shed tears as she spoke and the second wife cried with her. They cried and cursed their husband.*

*Just then, the husband returned. He was unaware that his two wives had followed him. He was very pleased with himself, he said, "Today I was out socializing with distinguished people again. There was so much enthusiasm and fervor that I could barely get away."*

醉醺 drunk
跟踪 to follow another person's track
神情 appearance, expression
墳地 cemetery
討 beg for
氣極敗壞 furiously
寄託 to commit
沒出息 unpromising
不長進 good for nothing
咒罵 to swear at
得意洋洋 self-satisfaction, be pleased with oneself
交際 social intercourse
熱情 passion
推不開 unable to push away

# 迷路的羊

*THE LOST GOAT*





楊朱是戰國（西元前四七五—二二一年）有名的思想家，後世的人都尊稱他爲楊子。

有一次，楊子的鄰居丟了一隻羊，全家人出動去找。沒有多久，這個鄰居又跑回來向楊子討救兵，請楊子的僕人也幫忙去找。

楊子覺得奇怪，才走丟一隻羊，何必這麼多人去找？就開玩笑的說：「哈哈，祇不過爲一隻羊，也這麼小題大作。」鄰居說：「先生，您不知道，路上有很多岔路，也不曉得羊往那條路上跑，所以要許多人去找。」楊子便叫僕人們都幫忙去找羊。

過了很久，找羊的人都回來了，楊子看鄰居垂頭喪氣的模樣，便問：「羊找到

*Yang Chu was a famous thinker of the Warring States period (475–221 B.C.). Future generations respectfully called him Yang-tzu. One time, a goat belonging to Yang-tzu's neighbor got loose. The neighbor's entire family went out to chase after the goat. After a while, the neighbor came running back and begged Yang-tzu for more people to help; he asked Yang-tzu's servants to help search.*

*Yang-tzu thought this was strange. After all it was only a lost goat. Was it necessary to have so many people go out and search? He said jokingly, "Ha ha! It's nothing more than a goat! This is making a mountain out of a mole hill." His neighbor said, "Sir, you don't know, but there are many forks in the road and we don't have any idea which one the goat took. So we must have many people to go and look." Yang-tzu then told his servants to go help look for the goat.*

*After a long time, all the people who were searching for the goat returned. Yang-tzu saw how dejected the neighbor looked and asked, "Did you find the goat?"*

*"No, we didn't," replied the neighbor.*



了嗎？」鄰居說：「沒有。」楊子又問：「爲什麼找不到？」鄰居回答：「岔路中又有岔路，不知道羊往那條路跑，所以找不到羊，只好回來了。」

楊子聽了這些話，突然想到：學習做人做事的道理也跟找羊一樣。如果沒有目標，沒有恆心，那根本談不上有成功的希望。因此他爲了這個道理想了又想。

楊子的學生看老師悶悶不樂，安慰老師說：「丟掉的羊祇是一隻家畜，而且又不是老師養的，老師何必這麼不快樂，這麼些天都不說話、不笑呢？」楊子嘆了口氣，也不回答學生的問話，走進房裡去了。楊子的學生還是得不到問題的答案。



*Yang-tzu then asked. "Why didn't you find it?"*

*"The forks in the road had forks. We couldn't tell which one the goat took, so we didn't find it and could only come back." answered the neighbor.*

*When Yang-tzu heard this, he suddenly thought: Learning the principles of personal conduct and of handling affairs is as difficult as looking for this goat. If you don't have a goal and perseverance then you can't even begin to think of success. He thought and thought about this principle.*

*Yang-tzu's student saw how unhappy his teacher was. Trying to comfort him, the student said, "The lost goat was only a domestic animal and furthermore, it wasn't your goat. Why must you be so unhappy that you haven't spoken or laughed for these few days?" Yang-tzu sighed and didn't reply to his student's question. He just went into the house. Yang-tzu's student never did get an answer.*

思想家 a thinker
後世 future generations
尊稱 respectful appellation
小題大作 make a fuss about a trifling matter
岔路 forks in the road
垂頭喪氣 downcast
突然 suddenly
目標 goal
恆心 perseverance
悶悶不樂 unhappy
家畜 domestic animal
答案 an answer

# 把我送到魚乾店吧

***SEND ME TO THE DRIED FISH STORE***





莊子（西元前？—二七五年）的家裡很窮，所以去向魏文侯借米。魏文侯知道莊子的來意後，回答莊子：「好，沒有問題！我很快就可以收到土地的租金，收到以後，馬上借給你三百兩金子，可以嗎？」

莊子已經窮得沒有飯吃，才厚著臉皮來借米，聽到對方這麼說，非常生氣。他說：「我昨天在來的路上，聽到求救的聲音，仔細察看，發現從車輪輾出來的小水溝中，有一條鯽魚正在呼救。我覺得奇怪，問這條鯽魚爲什麼在這兒。鯽魚回答：『我是海神的大臣，因爲貪玩，一不小心被困在這個地

*Chuang-tzu's (?–275 B.C.) family was very poor, so he went to borrow rice from Duke Wen of Wei. After Duke Wen knew why Chuang-tzu came, he replied, "Fine, no problem! Soon I'll collect the rent from my land. After I get it, I'll loan you three hundred liang of gold right away. Will that do?"*

*Chuang-tzu was so poor that he didn't have anything to eat. It was only then that he had brazenly come to borrow rice. When he heard how half-heartedly Duke Wen treated him, Chuang-tzu said furiously, "On my way here yesterday I heard a call for help. I looked around carefully and discovered that a carp was calling for help from a rut pressed into the road by cartwheels. I thought it was quite strange and asked this carp why he was there. This carp replied, 'I am a great official to the sea-god. Because I was too greedy for pleasure, I let my guard down for a moment and was imprisoned in this place. Can you help me? If you bring a little water here to save me, I will be*





方，能不能請您幫個忙，拿些水救我真是感激不盡。』這是做好事，我當然同意了，就告訴這條鯽魚說：『好啊！請等一等。我正要到南方的吳、越等國去遊玩，幾天後就會回來，到時候，我一定會引西江的水來幫助你，可以嗎？』你猜猜，這條鯽魚有何反應？」

魏文侯這時已知道莊子是暗指他，臉色很不好看，莊子不管這些，接下去說：「這條鯽魚生氣的對我說：『我祇要得到一點水，就可以活下去，你不但不幫我，還在一旁說風涼話，不如早點把我送給魚乾店吧！』」

*eternally grateful.' Naturally I agreed to do this good deed, so I told the carp, 'Fine! Please wait a while. Right now I'm going to Wu and Yüeh in the south for a pleasure trip. In a couple of days I'll be back and when I return I'll certainly bring the water of the western river to help you. Will that do?' Guess what this carp's reaction was."*

*Duke Wen of Wei by this time already knew that Chuang-tzu was alluding to him, and the expression on his face was very unpleasant. Chuang-tzu did not pay attention to it and continued to speak. "This carp angrily said to me, 'All I want is a little water and then I can go on living. You not only do not help me, but you even get sarcastic. It's better to just send me to the dried fish store now!'"*

對方 counterpart
仔細 carefully
車輪 cart wheels
輾 grind, crush
水溝 rut, ditch
鯽魚 carp
貪 covet, want, desire
暗指 hint at
風涼話 irresponsible remarks
魚乾店 dried fish store
厚臉皮 brazen-faced, shamelessly

# 鄒忌照鏡子

***TSOU CHI GAZES AT HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR***





鄒忌身高八尺，長得非常健美，他認爲自己是個美男子。

一天早晨，他起床梳洗之後，穿上華麗的衣服，戴上漂亮的帽子，站在鏡子前面，左照右照，覺得很得意。看見妻子站在身旁，就問太太說：「聽說住在城北的徐公，長得很美，我跟他比起來，那個好看？」鄒忌的太太連想都沒想就說：「當然是你長得好看！」

雖然自己的太太這樣說，鄒忌仍然不相信，又問姨太太。姨太太也說：「徐公那裡比得上你！」第二天，有客人來拜訪，鄒忌對客人再度提出這個問題；客人還是回答：徐公不如鄒忌長得好看。

*Tsou Chi was eight feet tall, extremely strong and good-looking. He considered himself a handsome gentleman.*

*One morning after Tsou Chi had gotten up, brushed his hair and washed up, he put on splendid clothing and a beautiful hat. He stood in front of the mirror and looked at himself from every angle. He was very satisfied with what he saw. He saw his wife standing at his side and asked her," I've heard that Mr. Hsu who lives in the north part of the city is very dashing. Which one of us is better looking?" Tsou Chi's wife answered without thinking, "Of course you're better looking."*

*Although his own wife had said these words, Tsou Chi nevertheless did not believe it and asked his concubine the same question. His concubine also replied, "How can Mr. Hsu compare to you?" The next day, guests came to visit and Tsou Chi once again brought up the question. The guests replied, "Mr. Hsu is not as good looking as you, Mr. Tsou Chi."*

*After some time, Mr. Hsu had some business to take care of and came to see Tsou Chi. The more Tsou Chi looked at Mr. Hsu, the more he felt – Mr. Hsu was better looking than himself. Tsou Chi secretly looked at the mirror once more and decided he wasn't half as good looking as Mr. Hsu. With doubt in his heart, he*





過了一些日子，徐公有事來找鄒忌。鄒忌看到徐公，越看越覺得徐公長得比自己好看；偷偷照鏡子再比較，更覺得自己比徐公差得遠，他心裡有了疑問：「為什麼太太、姨太太、客人欺騙我？」最後總算想通了，知道太太對自己偏心，姨太太害怕自己，客人來拜訪，又是有事想求助於己，所以都沒說實話。鄒忌明白以後，立刻上朝晉見齊威王，把這件事告訴齊威王，並且說：「我祇不過是個小小的臣子，就受到這麼多欺騙，何況是大王？大王所聽到不實在的話，恐怕比我還多。」

齊威王（西元前三五六—三二〇年）知道鄒忌說得沒錯，就下令全國，能夠說出國家和大王缺點的人，有賞；果然很多人提出意見，改善了國家的許多缺點。

*wondered, "Why did my wife, concubine, and guests want to deceive me?" At last, he finally figured it out and knew his wife was partial to him, his concubine feared him, and his guests had some favor to ask of him. So, none of them spoke the truth.*

*After Tsou Chi realized this, he immediately went to the imperial court of Ch'i to see King Wei of Ch'i and told him about this. He also said, "I'm just a humble minister and I've suffered this great deception. What about a great king? I fear a king hears many more falsehoods than I do."*

*King Wei of Ch'i knew that what Tsou Chi said was true, so he ordered a decree to the whole country that people who could speak forth the shortcomings of the country and king would obtain a reward. As expected, many people put forth suggestions that helped to improve many of the nation's shortcomings.*

照 to face a mirror
華麗 grand, showy, splendid, gorgeous
得意 pleased with oneself
帥 smart looking, dashing
姨太太 concubine
拜訪 visit
偷偷 secretly
想通了 figured out
偏心 be partial to
缺點 weaknesses, short-comings
意見 opinions, ideas

# 曾子殺猪

*TSENG-TZU KILLS THE PIG*







曾子的太太要上街買東西，她的兒子哭著扯住媽媽的衣服，吵著要跟去。做媽媽的被吵得沒辦法，祇好哄騙孩子說：「你不要跟來，乖乖待在家裡，等媽媽回來，叫爸爸殺豬給你吃。」孩子聽了就不吵了。

沒有多久，曾子的太太買東西回來，曾子就捉了豬，拿起刀來，準備將豬殺了。曾子的太太連忙阻止，說：「你要幹什麼？我祇是哄哄孩子，那裡真的要殺豬。你不必太認真了。」

曾子看看太太，嘆了一

*Tseng-tzu's wife wanted to go downtown to go shopping. Her son, crying, and grabbing her clothes, pestered her to let him go with her. He annoyed her to the point that there was nothing she could do except coax him, saying, "You can't come. Be good and stay at home. Wait until Mommy comes home and I'll tell Daddy to kill a pig for you to eat." Once the child heard this, he stopped pestering her.*

*After a short while, Tseng-tzu's wife came home from shopping. Tseng-tzu caught a pig, took out a knife and prepared to kill the pig. Tseng-tzu's wife rushed to stop him and said, "What are you doing? I was just coaxing the child; I don't really mean to kill the pig. You don't have to be so serious."*

*Tseng-tzu looked at his wife sighed, and said,*





口氣，說：「不可以這樣騙小孩呀！孩子什麼都不知道，分不清什麼是對的，什麼是錯的。看到爸爸媽媽怎樣做，就跟著做，完全學爸爸媽媽的模樣，現在，妳哄騙孩子，雖是出於無心，但孩子那裏知道。這不等於教孩子說謊嗎？而且，如此欺騙孩子，以後孩子還會相信妳所說的話嗎？我們不能用這種態度來管教孩子的。」

曾子說完之後，拿起刀來，把豬殺了，煮豬肉給孩子吃。

***"You can't trick children this way. Children don't know anything. They can't separate what is right from what is wrong. They do whatever they see their parents do. Children totally learn from their parents' ways of doing things. Now, if you trick our child, even though it is unintentional, how can the child know? Doesn't this amount to teaching him how to lie? Moreover, if you trick our child this way now, will he be able to believe what you say later on? We can't have this attitude in disciplining a child."***

***After Tseng-tzu finished speaking, he took the knife out and killed the pig. Then he cooked the pork and gave it to the child to eat.***

吵 disturb, annoy
扯 grasp firmly
哄騙 trick, coax
捉 grab
阻止 to stop
無心 unintentional




# THE PUPPETS OF P'ING-CH'ENG



傀儡戲是中國傳統的民間戲，現在小孩子很喜歡的布袋戲也是傀儡戲的一種。它是用木偶演戲，當然，木偶是由人操縱表演的，唱歌、講話也都由操縱的人發出聲音。

據說傀儡起源於漢代。漢高祖（西元前二〇六　一九六年）有一次親自率領軍隊，去打匈奴，不幸打了敗仗，被圍困在平城。

眼見平城的糧食一天比一天少。漢軍開始恐慌，如果不衝破匈奴的包圍，大家都會餓死的。

四面的包圍中，北面是匈奴首領冒頓的妻子閼氏，帶的兵比其他三面要強，所以如果想辦法使她退兵，漢軍就有救了。

漢高祖身邊的大臣陳平是個很聰明的人，當他知道

*The puppet-play is a traditional folk-play of China. The pu-tai plays children enjoy today are also a kind of puppet play. Puppet-plays use wooden puppets which, of course, are manipulated by people. The singing and speaking are all done by the puppeteer.*

*It is said that puppets originated in the Han Dynasty. Emperor Kao-tzu (206–196 B.C.) once personally led an army to attack the Huns. Unfortunately they were defeated and were surrounded at P'ing-ch'eng.*

*Seeing that their food supply was dwindling daily, the Han troops started to panic. If they did not break through the Hun's siege, everyone would die of starvation.*

*In the north part of the siege, the Hun army was commanded by Yen Chih, the wife of the Hun chieftain Mo Tu. Her division was more powerful than those on the other three sides, so if the Han army could think of a way to make her troops retreat, they would be saved.*

*Emperor Kao-tzu's high official, Ch'en P'ing, was a very smart man. When he found out that Yen Chih was a person who easily became suspicious, he thought of a clever strategy.*

*He found a woodcarver in the city and had him make very life-like wooden figures of*





閼氏的毛病是喜歡猜疑，就想了一個妙計。

他找來城裏的木匠，造了幾個很像眞人的木偶美女，又在木偶背上裝上可以讓木偶走動的機關，穿了漂亮的衣服，讓它們在城牆上跳起舞來。

閼氏一看，以爲都是眞人。她心想：這麼多漂亮的女人，如果打下平城後，大王冒頓一定會娶來做小老婆的，這樣怎麼成啊！於是她下令退兵，其他三面的軍隊看見主力軍退去，他們也跟著退兵。漢高祖和他的軍隊終於得到逃命的機會。

由於陳平的妙計，大家發現有時讓木偶裝做眞人演戲更有趣，所以到現在許多人還喜歡看傀儡戲、和布袋戲。

傀儡戲 puppet show
傳統 traditional
布袋戲 a kind of puppet-play typical in Taiwan featuring figures originally made from tiny sacks topped with painted heads manipulated by hands and fingers

*beautiful women. The woodcarver also put mechanisms in their backs that made it possible for them to move, and he dressed them with beautiful clothes. Ch'en P'ing then made them dance on top of the city wall.*

*When Yen Chih saw them she thought they were real people. She thought, "If King Mo Tu conquers P'ing-ch'eng with all of its beautiful women, he will certainly want to marry them as concubines. Would that do?" So she commanded her troops to retreat. When the other three divisions saw the most powerful one retreat, they also retreated. In the end, Emperor Kao-tzu and his army had a chance to save themselves.*

*Because of Ch'en P'ing's clever strategy, everyone discovered that it is sometimes more interesting to let puppets perform like people. Today many people still enjoy watching puppet-plays and pu-tai plays.*

木偶 a puppet
演戲 put on a show
操縱 manipulate
起源 to originate
匈奴 the Huns
圍困 to surround
恐慌 panic, panicky
猜疑 suspicion
裝上 installed
妙計 clever strategy
機關 mechanism, gadget



# 田眞兄弟

## T'IEN CHEN AND HIS BROTHERS



漢朝（西元前二〇六——西元二一九年），有戶姓田的人家，父母親帶著三個兒子，過著快樂的生活。在他們家的院子裏，有棵很大的紫金樹。大人在樹下乘涼休息，小孩在樹下玩耍唱歌。紫金樹也像他們，過著快樂的生活。

時光一年一年的過去，父母親年老了，三兄弟也長大，都娶了妻子，生了孩子。不幸的是三兄弟開始有了爭吵。老二說老三工作做得少；老三說老大孩子多，錢用得多。父母親知道他們爭吵，也很傷心難過，時常勸他們兄弟要和睦相處。過了幾年他們的父母親去世了，他們兄弟便決定分家。分家，怎麼分呢？他們把家裏的錢和東西，平均分成三份，三兄弟每人一份。但是院子裏的紫金樹，又該分給誰呢

*During the Han dynasty, (206 B.C. – 219 A.D.) there was a family named T'ien. The father and mother had three sons and they all spent happy days together. In their yard was a big tzu-chin tree. The adults would cool off and rest in the shade of the tree and the children would play or sing there. The tree was like part of the family and passed its days happily.*

*The years went by and the father and mother grew old. The three brothers grew up, married and had children. Unfortunately, the three brothers began to quarrel. The second brother said the youngest brother did less than his share of work; the youngest brother said the eldest had too many children and spent too much money. Their father and mother knew of the quarreling and were heart-broken. They frequently urged the brothers to reconcile their differences.*

*A few years later, their parents had passed away, the brothers decided to divide the family. But how to go about dividing the family? The brothers divided their money and possesions into three equal parts and each received one part. Yet whom should the tree in the yard be given to? The brothers couldn't think of a way to settle this problem, so they could only decide that the next day they would saw the*



？他們想不出辦法，只好決定第二天拿鋸子把樹鋸成三段。

第二天，他們出了房門嚇了一跳，原來有翠綠葉子的大樹，怎麼一下子就枯死了，滿院子都是落葉。老大田眞看了，心裏很難過，對兩個弟弟說：「這本來是很好的一棵樹，它聽說要被鋸成三份，因此傷心得枯死了。我們一個家，能分成三個家嗎？」

兩個弟弟也想起從小他們一家人在樹下的快樂生活；三兄弟的相親相愛。兩個弟弟都說：「我們不要分家吧！」

說也奇怪，不多久，紫金樹又長出新芽，活過來了。又高大又漂亮的紫金樹，照顧著這家人相親相愛的生活。

*tree into three pieces.*

*The next day when they went out of the house, they were greatly surprised. How could the big tree that originally had bluish-green leaves have suddenly withered and died? The whole courtyard was covered with fallen leaves. When the eldest brother, T'ien Chen, saw this he was very sad. He said to his brothers, "This was originally a fine tree. It heard that we wanted to saw it into three pieces and thus, broken-hearted, it withered up and died. Can we divide our family into three parts?"*

*The two younger brothers remembered how when they were young they spent happy days under the tree as a family, and how they were kind to each other and loved each other. They both said, "Let's not divide the family."*

*Strangely, not long after, the tree budded and came to life. The big, beautiful tzu-chin tree looked after the entire T'ien family. It seemed very happy to see everyone in the family being kind to each other and loving one another throughout their lives.*

乘涼 enjoy the cool air
不幸 unfortunate
爭吵 quarrel
傷心 heart-broken
鋸子 a saw
翠綠 bluish-green
枯 dried, dried up, wither
相親相愛 be kind to each other and love each other

# 不棄糟糠

## NOT THROWING AWAY THE CHAFF





東漢（西元二五—二一九年）時，有個人名叫宋弘，在朝廷做官。

皇帝的妹妹胡陽公主剛死了丈夫不久，皇帝想再找個妹婿。於是皇帝便找了一個機會，和她妹妹品論朝中大臣，探聽她的心意。談到宋弘時，公主說：「宋弘這個人，相貌堂堂，品德學問都很好，滿朝文武沒人比得上。」

皇帝知道她的心意，便說：「宋弘已經結婚了，不知道他的意思怎樣，是否能和他太太離婚，讓我來試探看看。」

*During the Eastern Han Dynasty (25–219 A.D.), there was a man named Sung Hung who was an official in the Imperial Court.*

*The Emperor's younger sister, Princess Hu-yang had recently lost her husband and the Emperor wanted to find his sister another husband. So, he found an opportunity to chat with his sister and discuss the officials of the Imperial Court. When the Emperor mentioned Sung Hung, the princess said, "Sung Hung has a very dignified look, and his character and scholarship are both excellent. In the Imperial Court, all the military and civil officers, none can compare with him."*

*The Emperor knew what she meant by this, and said, "Sung Hung is already married. I don't know what his thoughts on the matter are, or whether or not he's willing to divorce his wife. Let me sound him out."*





糟糠 chaff, here the wife
品論 (critically) discuss
探聽 ask about
相貌 looks
堂堂 dignified
品德 moral character
試探 sound out
人之常情 human nature
患難 adversity, hard times
眞摯 sincere
堅決 firm

於是他便請公主躲在屏風後面，召來宋弘，問他：「爲了求得功名富貴，難免丟開老朋友，結交新朋友，卽使和太太離婚，也是人之常情，你認爲怎樣？」

宋弘聽了，嚴肅的說：「貧賤時結交的朋友，曾經共過患難，是不能忘記的；貧窮時，太太曾經相扶持，情感最爲眞摯，是不能輕易離棄的。」皇帝知道他的心意很堅決，便不再強迫他了。

宋弘「不棄糟糠」的美德，爲後世傳頌。

*He asked the princess to hide behind a screen and he summoned Sung Hung. The Emperor asked him, "Don't you think that it's human nature that people, in order to become famous and wealthy, get rid of old friends and make new ones; even to the point of divorcing their wives?"*

*After Sung Hung heard this, he said solemnly, "The friends that one made when lowly and poor and who shared in hard times cannot be forgotten. The wife one had when one was poor, who helped and whose feelings are most sincere, cannot be casually cast aside." The Emperor knew that Sung Hung's mind was made up, so he didn't try to force him.*

*The virtue shown by Sung Hung in "not throwing away the chaff" has been told time and time again to later generations.*



# 問日遠近

## *ASKING ABOUT THE SUN'S DISTANCE*



晉明帝（西元三二二—三二四年）年幼時就非常聰明而富有機智，很得元帝的喜愛。

有一天，元帝正逗著他玩。正巧有使者從長安來。使者走了之後，元帝就問他：「太陽和長安那一個距離這兒近？」

「當然是長安啊！」他很快的回答。

「爲什麼？」元帝問。

「我只看到人從長安來，並沒聽說有人從太陽那邊來，這不是長安距離這兒比較近，而太陽離得比較遠嗎？」

元帝聽了，不停的點頭稱讚，心裡很高興。

*When Emperor Ming (322–324 A.D.) of the Chin Dynasty was little, he was extremely smart, full of quick wit, and was much loved by his father, Emperor Yüan.*

*One day while Emperor Yüan was playing with him, an envoy arrived from Ch'ang-an. After he left, Emperor Yüan asked his son, "Which is nearer–the sun or Ch'ang-an?"*

*"Of course it's Ch'ang-an," Ming quickly replied.*

*"Why?" asked Emperor Yüan.*

*"I have only seen people come from Ch'ang-an, but I have never heard of someone coming from the sun. So isn't Ch'ang-an closer to here, and the sun farther away?"*

*After Emperor Yüan heard this, he nodded his head many times and praised him. In his heart he was extremely happy.*

*The next day, Emperor Yüan held a banquet for all the literary and military officials in the court. He thought to use this opportunity to*





第二天，元帝設宴招待滿朝文武大臣，想藉機會炫耀自己兒子的聰明。宴會進行到一半，便又問明帝同樣的問題。想不到他却回答：「太陽近。」

元帝聽了，心裡一驚，怕引起羣臣的譏笑，便著急的說：「你昨天不是說長安近嗎？怎麼今天的答案不一樣了呢？」

明帝聽了，不慌不忙的說：「當然啦，您看，現在我們擡起頭來只看到太陽，却看不到長安；這不是太陽離我們比較近嗎？」

元帝聽了，更是驚喜不已。

***show off his son's intelligence. Halfway through the banquet he asked Ming the same question. But he did not expect that his son would reply, "The sun is nearer."***

***When Emperor Yüan heard this he was so surprised. Afraid that his son would provoke the ridicule of the assembled officials, he asked anxiously, "Yesterday didn't you say that Ch'ang-an is closer? Why is your answer not the same today?"***

***Ming listened and said calmly, "Well of course, you see, if we look up now all we see is the sun, but we cannot see Ch'ang-an. So isn't the sun nearer to us?"***

***When Emperor Yüan heard this reply he was even more pleasantly surprised.***

機智 quick wits
逗著 to rouse, amuse
使者 envoy
距離 distance
稱讚 praise
設宴 to hold a banquet
炫耀 to show off
大驚失色 lose one's color from embarrassment or shock
譏笑 ridicule
不慌不忙 calmy, unhurriedly
驚喜 happily surprise



# 點睛龍飛

*DOTTING IN THE DRAGON'S EYES*





南朝（西元四二〇—五八九年）吳興人張僧繇是一個善於繪畫的人。他的畫畫得實在太好了，無論是山水人物或花卉蟲鳥都活現紙面，跟真的簡直一模一樣。

有一次，他到金陵城郊的安樂寺遊玩。寺內的住持請他在寺裏畫幾幅畫，他禁不住住持的苦苦要求，便在壁上畫了四條龍，每條龍都畫得栩栩如生，遊客們個個讚賞不止。

但是他畫的龍卻沒有眼睛，人們就問他是什麼原因。他說：「如果點了眼睛，這條龍就會充滿生命，飛翔

*During the Southern Dynasties (420–589 A.D.) there was a man from Wu-hsing named Chang Seng-you who was skilled in painting. His paintings were truly remarkable. He made landscapes, people or plants and trees all appear vividly on paper, and they looked exactly like the real things.*

*Once he went to An-le Temple on the outskirts of Chin-ling (Nanking) for some fun. When the abbot of the temple asked him to paint a few paintings inside the temple, he could not refuse the abbot's earnest requests. So he painted four dragons on the wall. The dragons were painted so true-to-life that they seemed to float there. Passers-by endlessly complimented Chang.*

*But the dragons he had painted had no eyes. Everyone asked him why and he replied, "If I dot in the eyes, these dragons will come to life and soar away."*





繪畫 paint a picture
山水 landscapes
城郊 suburb
寺 temple
住持 abbot
幅 measure word for paintings
神采 countenance
飛揚 rise and flutter
栩栩如生 true-to-life, lifelike
讚賞 praise, compliment
飛翔 glide
胡言亂語 speak nonsense
故弄玄虛 deliberately puzzle people
衝破 break through
目瞪口呆 dumbfounded

而去。」

他的話，不但沒有一個人相信，而且還笑他胡言亂語、故弄玄虛。

沒有辦法，他只好拿起筆來，在一條龍上用力的點上眼睛。沒想到忽然天昏地暗、雷電交加，轟隆一聲，那條金光耀眼的龍衝破牆壁，乘著彩雲，飛上天空。

這一幕奇景，看得大家目瞪口呆，回頭一望，只見沒有點上眼睛的三條龍還靜靜的躺在牆上。

這只是一個傳說，但也說出了張僧繇畫畫的功力。

***Not only did no one believe what he said, but they all laughed at him for talking such nonsense and trying to fool them.***

***He had no choice but to lift his brush and dot the eyes of one of the dragons. Suddenly heaven and earth became dark, thunder sounded and lightning crossed the sky. With a terrific crash, the dragon broke through the wall, its colors shimmering brightly. Soaring on multi-colored clouds, it flew into the heavens.***

***Everyone was completely dumbfounded by this strange event. Then they turned around, only to see three eyeless dragons still peacefully resting on the temple wall.***

***This is only a legend, but it explained the skill of the painter.***

# 李賀的錦袋

*LI HO'S EMBROIDERED BAG*





李賀是唐朝（西元六一八—九〇七年）有名的詩人。他寫詩，不是坐在桌子前面絞腦汁，而是到外面去尋找靈感。

每天一大早，李賀就騎著一匹瘦馬，叫書僮背上個袋子，在旁邊跟著。他們在大街小巷裏走，有時也會離開他們住的城市，到風景美麗的郊外，看看青山碧水，希望找到寫詩的靈感。

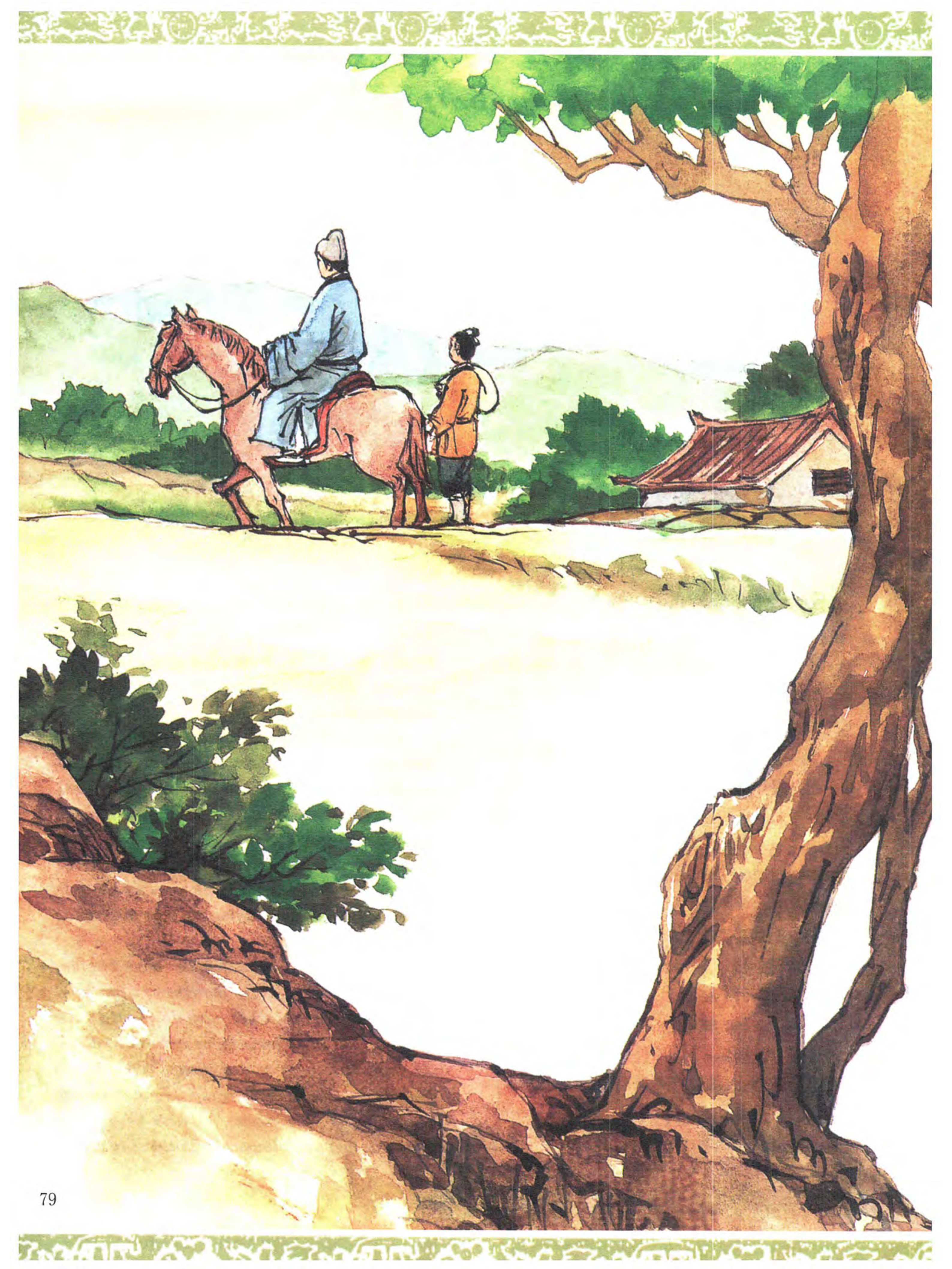
就這樣整天在外閒逛，如果想到什麼好句子，就用紙寫下來，放進袋子裏。黃昏回家以後，再從袋子裏找出那些路上記下來的句子，整理成完整的詩。

如果不是喝得大醉，或

*Li Ho was a famous poet during the T'ang dynasty (618—907A.D.) When he wrote poems he did not sit in front of a desk, buried in thought. On the contrary, he went outside to seek inspiration.*

*Very early every morning, Li Ho would ride off on a thin horse. His book attendant would follow alongside him with an embroidered bag slug over his shoulder. They went through great boulevards and small alleys. Sometimes they even left their city to view the green mountains, blue water and picturesque areas in the suburbs, always hoping to find inspiration for writing poems.*

*They would spend entire days strolling around like this. If Li Ho thought of a few good lines for a poem, he wrote them down on a piece of paper and stuck them in his embroidered bag. At dusk he would return home, take out the lines he had written along the way and arrange them into a new poem. Unless he got too drunk or had other important business to attend*





是有其他重要的事，他每天都會到外面去尋找作詩的靈感。

李賀的母親，常常擔心這體弱多病的兒子太過於勞累。因此，每當兒子回家時，就叫女僕偷偷的把袋子拿過來看看。如果袋子裏的詩句太多，母親反而難過的說：「兒子啊！你是不把心肝嘔出來不肯停止嗎？」站在旁邊的女僕都不知道要怎麼安慰老夫人，也只有陪著流淚。

李賀在二十七歲的時候，就得病死了。大家都說他是寫詩寫得太勞累了。但是他卻留下許多人人都喜歡的好詩。

*Li Ho went out every day in search of the inspiration he needed to write poems.*

*Li Ho's mother often worried that her weak and sickly son might become overtired. So whenever her son came home, she had the maids sneak her son's embroidered bag away and bring it to her to look in. If there were too many poems in the bag his mother would say sadly, "Oh son! Why are you not willing to stop unless you completely spit out your heart?" The maids by her side did not know how to console their mistress and could only join her in her tears.*

*When Li Ho was twenty-seven years old, he got sick and died. Everyone said that he had worked himself to death by writing too many poems. But he left behind a great many poems that everyone enjoys.*

絞盡惱汁 buried in thought
靈感 inspiration
瘦 thin
書僮 attendant of a scholar
郊外 suburbs
黃昏 dusk, sunset
體弱多病 weak and sickly
勞累 tired, overworked
女僕 maid
嘔出來 spit out

# 月下老人

***THE OLD MATCHMAKER***





唐朝時，有個人名叫韋固。年輕時，有一天旅行到宋城。

當天晚上，韋固到街上閒逛，看到一個老人坐在路邊，身旁放了一個大袋子，正在翻閱一本又大又厚的書。韋固很好奇，就問他：「老伯伯，請問您在看什麼書啊？」

老人說：「這是記載天下男女婚姻的書。袋子裏的紅繩是用來繫夫妻的腳的。無論他們是仇人也好，或者遠在天涯海角，我只要將這些紅繩子繫在他們的腳上，他們一定會和好，而且結成夫婦。」停了一會，老人又接著說：「你的太太就是市場北面姓陳的賣菜老婦的女兒。」

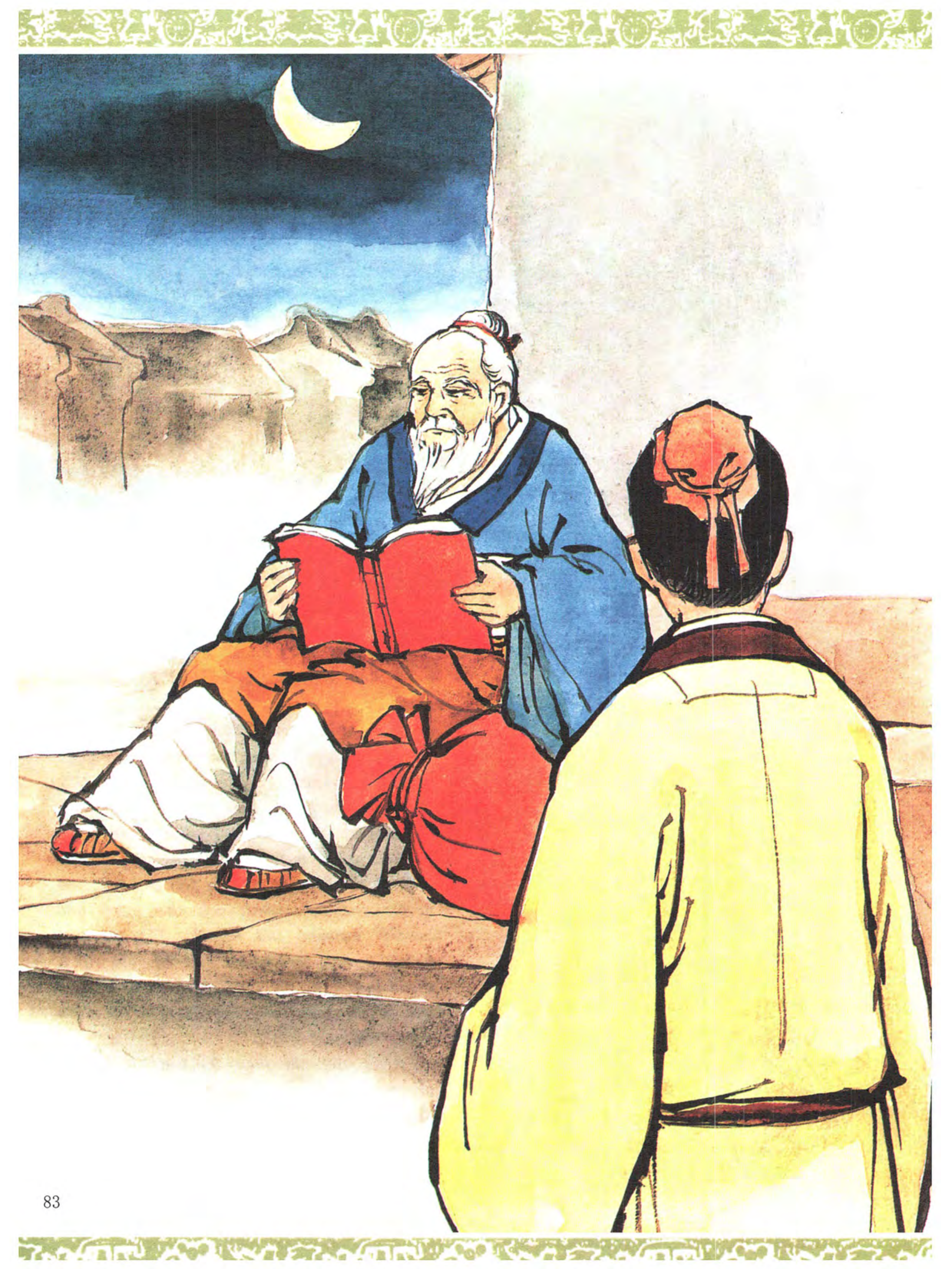
老人說完便帶韋固去看。原來是個才二歲的小女孩，看來寒酸又醜陋。韋固是

*In the T'ang Dynasty (618–907 A.D.) there was a man named Wei Ku. One day when he was still a young man he travelled to Sung-ch'eng.*

*That night Wei Ku went out for a stroll and saw an old man sitting along side the road. Next to the old man was a big bag; and he was paging through a big, thick book. "Sir, may I ask what book you are reading?" Wei Ku inquired curiously.*

*The old man said, "This is a book in which all the marriages between men and women under heaven are recorded. The red rope inside the bag is used to tie together the feet of husbands and wives. Regardless of whether they are enemies or live in far-away places, all I need to do is to tie this rope to their feet and they will become friendly towards each other, marry, and become husband and wife." The old man paused a while then added, "Your future wife is the daughter of the old woman named Ch'en who is selling vegetables over there on the north side of the marketplace."*

*After the old man finished talking, he brought Wei Ku over to take a look. The girl was just two years old, looked poor and ugly. Wei Ku was a son of a wealthy family. He*



閒逛 stroll, wander around
翻閱 to page through a book
好奇 curious
繫 bind, tie
天涯海角 far-away, or remote places
寒酸 poverty-stricken
容貌 appearance, looks
醜陋 ugly

行刺 to kill, stab to death
刺史 provincial governor
端莊 dignified
傷痕 scar
郡守 governor
義女 adopted daughter
驚嘆 to marvel, exclaim in wonder

個有錢人家的子弟，心想：「我怎能娶這又貧窮、又醜陋的女孩爲妻！」

第二天，便叫隨身的僕人前去行刺。僕人由於心情緊張，一刀刺去，只傷到女孩的眉，又因爲人太多，不敢再刺，立刻逃走了。

過了十四年，相州刺史王泰把女兒嫁給他。這女孩年約十六七歲，長得端莊秀麗，但在眉間有一道傷痕。韋固問她原因。她說：「我是郡守的義女。十四年前在宋城時，媽媽帶我在市場賣菜。有一天，在菜市場被一個壞人所刺，幸好只傷在眉間，就是現在這條刀痕。」

韋固想起十四年前的往事，知道姻緣早已注定，爲之驚嘆不已。對那位「月下老人」有說不盡的感激與懷念。

***thought, "How can I ever take such a poor, ugly girl for my wife?"***

***The next day he ordered his personal servant to go and kill her. Because the servant was very nervous, he stabbed once, injuring only the girl's eyebrow. But he did not dare stab her again because there were too many people around. He then quickly ran away.***

***Fourteen years Later, Wang Ch'in, the governor of Hsiang-chou, gave his daughter in marriage to Wei Ku. The girl was about sixteen or seventeen years old, dignified and beautiful. But she had a scar between her eyebrows. Wei Ku asked her why. "I am the governor's god daughter," she said. "Fourteen years ago when I was in Sung-ch'eng, my real mother brought me along with her when she sold vegetables in the marketplace. One day I was stabbed by a bad man in the market. Fortunately I was just hurt between the eyebrows right where the scar is now."***

***Wei Ku remembered the events fourteen years before and knew that marriage really was controlled by the gods. He could not stop exclaiming in wonder about it. He felt an indescribably deep gratitude and nostalgia for the Old Matchmaker.***


稱鎚投足
THROWING A WEIGHT ON A FOOT



寇準是宋真宗（西元九九八—一〇二一年）的宰相，他爲宋朝做了許多大事。十九歲就考中進士，做了官。

但他小時候並不是一個很乖很聽話的孩子。他的母親很疼他；他也很愛母親。可是母親希望他多讀一些書，有了學問才有好前途；寇準偏對讀書沒興趣，喜歡在外面遊蕩，不是帶著飛鷹和朋友去打獵，就是帶著狗到處胡作非爲，母親每次勸他安靜的在家裏讀書，他總是趁她不注意就溜出去找朋友玩。

有一天，一個農人氣呼呼的到他家，對他的母親說：「夫人哪！您的兒子要好好管教哇！他打獵打到我田裏，踏壞我多少農作物，已經不只一次了。說他，他總不聽！」母親只好跟農人道

*K'ou Chuen was the prime minister during the reign of Sung Chen-tsung (998–1021 A.D) and he did many great things for the Sung Dynasty. When he was nineteen years old, he took the Imperial examinations and was given the rank of Chin-shih and later was appointed to an official position.*

*When he was a small boy, though, he wasn't a very obedient child. At that time, his mother loved him very much, and he was also very fond of his mother. His mother wanted him to study more, so he would have greater knowledge and a future. K'ou Chuen, however, was not interested in studying. What he liked to do best was to go outside and fool around. When he went out, he either went hunting with his falcon and some friends, or he took his dogs with him and wandered about, doing what he wanted to regardless of what others thought. His mother always urged him to stay home and study quietly. But whenever his mother wasn't paying attention, he would sneak out and go to look for his friends to play.*

*One day, a very angry farmer came to his house. The farmer said to K'ou Chuen's mother, "Madame, your son should be disciplined! While he was hunting, he wandered into my fields and he stepped all over my crops and*



歉賠不是。

農人走後，母親氣得說不出話來，這一次她不能再原諒寇準了。不久寇準嘻嘻哈哈的踏進門，母親再也忍不住罵起來，隨手抓了旁邊的稱鎚丟過去，寇準驚訝得來不及躲開，被丟中了腳，一下子血流如注。

母親也慌了，趕快跑過去看他的腳，一面幫他擦藥，一面流淚責罵他，寇準這才知道他過去的行為是多麼傷母親的心，他從此立志要好好讀書，做個有用的人。

他做宰相的時候，母親已經去世了，每次摸到腳上的傷痕，就想起母親當年的疼愛和教誨，常常忍不住哭了起來。

*ruined many. And this isn't the first time! If you're saying anything about it to him, he isn't listening." His mother could only apologize to the farmer and ask for his forgiveness.*

*After the farmer left, she was so mad that she couldn't even talk, and this time, she just couldn't forgive K'ou Chuen. Not long after, K'ou Chuen came into the house laughing and giggling, his mother couldn't help but yell at him. She grabbed a weight that was lying beside her and threw it toward him. K'ou Chuen was very surprised, and he didn't have time to dodge the weight. It hit him on the foot. Immediately, his foot began to bleed incessantly.*

*K'ou Chuen's mother was also startled. She quickly ran over to look at the foot and smeared medicine on his wound for him. At the same time she scolded her son through her tears. Only then did K'ou Chuen realize how much he had hurt his mother's feelings. He resolved that from that moment on, he would study very hard and become a useful person.*

*When he was prime minister, his mother had already passed away. But every time he touched the scar on his foot, he remembered his mother's love and the lessons she had taught him. He often couldn't keep himself from crying.*

稱鎚 a weight
遊蕩 fool around
胡作非爲 do what you want despite what others may think
溜 to sneak out
管教 to discipline
作物 crops
道歉 apologize
賠罪 ask for forgiveness
躲開 to dodge, get out of the way
嚇、慌 frightened,
立志 resolve
教誨 training,

# 黎丘的鬼怪

*THE EVIL SPIRIT OF LI-CH'IU*





河南省黎丘村附近的小土山上，有一種鬼怪，喜歡變成人家的孩子、姪兒、兄弟的樣子來作弄人。

黎丘村有一個老人，到城裡喝酒，天色暗了以後，才醉醺醺的走回家。半路上鬼怪裝扮成老人兒子的模樣，上前去扶持老人。老人醉醺醺的，以爲是自己的兒子，沒想到卻受到捉弄，吃了許多苦頭，才跌跌撞撞的回到家。

第二天，老人的酒醒了，不知道在路上捉弄自己的是鬼怪，他責罵兒子說：「我是你的父親，你竟然如此不孝順，我喝醉了，不來扶我也罷，竟然還捉弄我，你到底安什麼心眼兒？」

老人的兒子說：「冤枉，昨天我到村子東邊收錢去

*In Honan province, in the hills around Li-ch'iu village, there is a kind of evil spirit. This evil spirit enjoys turning into the form of people's children, nephews or brothers in order to trick people.*

*In the village of Li-ch'iu, there was an old man who went to town to get drunk one day. After it got dark, he staggered drunkenly home. On the way, the evil spirit changed into the form of the old man's son and walked forward as if to help the man walk. Since the old man was very drunk, he thought that the spirit really was his son and didn't expect to be the victim of a joke. After he had been harrassed, he stumbled home.*

*The next day, when the old man had sobered up, he still didn't realize that it was an evil spirit that had played tricks on him as he was coming home. He scolded his son saying, "I am your father. You've become unfilial all of a sudden. When I was drunk last night, it would have been alright if you didn't come to help me along, but you came and tricked me! Just what are you up to?"*





了，那會在路上捉弄您？」老人突然想起可能是鬼怪作怪。

過了一天，老人故意又到城裡喝酒，想要引誘出捉弄自己的鬼怪，然後把鬼怪殺掉。那想到老人的兒子擔心老人喝醉了，回不了家，又被鬼怪捉弄，自己老遠來接父親。可是老人却一下子拔起劍，把兒子殺死了。

啊！可憐的老人，可憐的兒子。世上有許多人也像老人一樣，被壞人騙了，連好人都不敢相信。總認爲世界上沒有好人！

鬼怪 evil spirit
姪兒 nephews
作弄 play trick
醉醺醺 drunk
扶持 support, help along
你安什麼心眼 "Just what are you up to?"
引誘 tempt, entice
老遠 far, far away
捉弄 play a joke
跌跌撞撞 stagger, walk unsteadily
竟然 (here) dare to, have the nerve to

*"You've got me all wrong," said the son. "Yesterday I went to the eastern side of the village to collect some money, so how could I have played tricks on you on your way home?" The old man then suddenly realized that it might have been a spirit that played tricks on him.*

*On the next day, the old man intentionally went back to town to drink. He wanted to lure out the spirit that had played tricks on him before; and then he planned to kill it. Who would have thought that the old man's son worried that after his father was drunk he would not be able to make it home, and would be deceived by the spirit again. Indeed, the son came from far away to meet up with his father. However, as soon as he saw him, the old man took out his sword and killed his son.*

*Alas! Pathetic old man. Pathetic son. There are a great many people in the world, like the old man, who are deceived by bad people and therefore don't even trust good people. They think that there just aren't any good people in the world!*

# 熟能生巧

## PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT





從前有個叫陳康肅，號堯咨的人，箭術精良，舉世無雙。他因此非常的驕傲，常常誇耀自己的本領。

有一天，他在院子裏射箭，有一個賣油的老翁正好走過，便停下來看。陳堯咨舉起了弓，搭上箭，「咻！咻！咻！」一連發出十枝箭，每枝都正中紅心。他神氣的說：「你看，怎麼樣？」那個老翁只是微微點頭，並不叫好。

陳堯咨心裏很不舒服，不客氣的問他：「你這老頭兒也會射箭嗎？」

老翁說：「不會。」

陳堯咨說：「那麼，是我的箭射得不好嗎？」

老翁回答：「好是好，不過，這只是一種平常的技術罷了，並沒什麼了不起！」

*Once upon a time there was a man named Ch'en K'ang-su, styled Yao-tzu. His skills in archery were excellent, unique in the whole world. Because of this he was extremely proud and often showed off his ability.*

*One day when he was shooting arrows in the courtyard, an old man who sold oil happened to walk by and stopped to watch. Ch'en Yao-tzu lifted his bow, put an arrow in place--zip, zip, zip--he shot ten arrows one after the other and each of them hit the bull's eye. He said proudly, "What do you think?" But the old man just nodded his head slightly and did not compliment him.*

*Very ill at ease, Ch'en Yao-tzu impolitely asked him, "Do you also know how to shoot arrows, old-timer?"*

*"No," said the old man.*

*"Then is it that my archery is no good?" Ch'en Yao-tzu said.*

*"It's fine," replied the old man, "but it's just an ordinary skill and nothing more. There's nothing special about it."*

*Ch'en Yao-tzu lost his temper and said angrily, "Who do you think you are that you*



陳堯咨冒火了，生氣的對老翁說：「你是什麼人？竟敢這樣侮辱我。」

老翁不慌不忙的說：「您先別生氣，讓我倒油給您看看。」說完，便會拿一個葫蘆放在地上，上面放了一枚有孔的銅錢。舀了一杓油，眼睛看準了，油杓輕輕一歪，那些油就像一條細細的黃線，筆直的從錢孔流入葫蘆裏。倒完之後，油一點也沒沾到銅錢。他很謙虛的向陳堯咨說：「這也是一種平常的技術罷了，也就是熟能生巧的道理啊！」

陳堯咨聽了，十分慚愧，從此更加努力的練習射箭，人品和箭術一樣好。



***have the audacity to belittle my skill in archery like this!"***

***"First, don't lose your temper," the old man said calmly. "Let me show you how I pour oil." Then he took a gourd and set it on the ground, and on top of it he set a copper coin that had a hole in the middle. He ladled out a spoonful of oil and, taking aim, tipped his spoon slightly. The oil appeared just like a fine yellow thread that ran perfectly straight through the hole in the coin and into the gourd. When he finished pouring, the copper coin was not in the least bit wet. Humbly he told Ch'en Yao-tzu, "This is also just an ordinary skill and nothing more, just by reason that 'practice makes perfect'."***

***When Ch'en Yao-tzu heard this he was very ashamed. From that time he worked even harder to practice his archery, and his personality became as fine as his archery.***

熟能生巧 skill comes from long experience
箭術 archery
舉世無雙 unique in the whole world
誇耀 to flaunt, show off
本能 talent, ability
神氣 proud
罷 enough, no more
冒火 become angry
杓 a receptacle
歪 tip, to side, unbalanced
人品 personality
侮辱 insult, belittle
舀 to ladle out

# 民間故事第二集

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